

## The Evening World.

ESTABLISHED BY JOSEPH PULITZER.  
Published Daily Except Sundays by The Press Publishing Company, Nos. 55 to 63 Park Row, New York.  
RALPH PULITZER, President, 63 Park Row.  
J. ANSON SHAW, Treasurer, 63 Park Row.  
JOSEPH PULITZER, Jr., Secretary, 63 Park Row.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.  
The Associated Press is authorized to use the name for publication of all news dispatches received in its office or otherwise credited to this paper and also the local news published herein.

### THE BALLOT IN THE UNION.

JUDGE MAYER in outlining the terms on which the B. R. T. strike may be settled brings up the increasingly important question of how the unions may be made more responsible and their chosen representatives representative in fact.

This whole matter of union representation deserves to be thoroughly gone into.

B. R. T. strikers were called out by a vote taken at a meeting attended by only a small fraction of the workers affected.

Moreover, the vote was taken by a show of hands and in a moment of anger over the report of a lock-out by the company.

No one can say with certainty what the result might have been had the workers voted by secret ballot after their anger had cooled.

The B. R. T. strike is only one instance of many where the representative character of union action is in grave doubt.

In the "vacation" strike in the anthracite fields there are charges that elected leaders do not represent the miners, and that leaders have sold out to the mine operators and are being paid to keep wages down.

In the "outlaw" strikes of early summer similar charges were made.

For all of which a sorely tried public has little or no sympathy. The public mutely wonders why unionists do not elect men who will represent them and in whom they have confidence.

Unfortunately there is a measure of truth in some of the complaints of the disgruntled unionists.

Union history is not without instances where elections have been packed. The steam roller has been used. Political machines within the unions are no novelty. Labor leaders have "sold out" in some instances.

What is the remedy?

The public as a whole favors collective bargaining. But when a bargain is made it should be observed. When an employer deals with a representative of labor he should have assurance that the men are behind the leader and will abide by the bargain he makes.

When "outlaws" appear in union ranks the public ought to have a basis on which it can judge whether these men are no better than "welchers" or whether they are the victims of crooked politics in the unions.

All these considerations rest primarily on the worth of the ballot in the union.

It is a question whether the time has not come when the State, acting for the public, should step in and regulate the elections and referendums of unions.

The State has laws for the regulation of political parties. It has made rules for the election of responsible officers of corporations, which rules protect the minority and are enforced by courts.

Analogous laws would recognize the importance of the part which labor organizations play in public affairs.

If the State guaranteed to every union member a fair expression of his will in union affairs there would be less excuse for "outlaw" movements which injure the unions no less than they do the employers and the public.

### NO FREE WATERMELONS HERE.

WATERMELONS for the asking at Baltimore and watermelons at \$1.50 each in New York indicate something wrong with the marketing system, or else most of the water is in the price.

Yesterday's news had it that melons sold in quantity at 7½ cents apiece and that even at this price the Baltimore market was so overloaded that dealers gave away hundreds.

Where were the buyers for the New York market that they did not divert a part of this glut to a port where the demand is practically unlimited—at a fair price and profit?

### MORE BURLESONISM?

WHATEVER the sins of the eleven postal clerks discharged in Chicago, postal workers generally have ample ground for protest against the reasons Postmaster Burleson assigns for their discharge.

The men were charged with "soliciting, or causing to be solicited, sums of money from the public for publishing false and slanderous statements relating to the postal service."

Soliciting money and publishing slander are two distinct acts. Would soliciting money for the publication of true statements be punishable? Would publication of true statements have been permitted if postal workers had paid for the publication out of their meagre earnings?

Mr. Burleson does not differentiate.

The discharged clerks at Chicago deny they solicited money. If money was voluntarily contributed to a publicity fund, would that change the status of the sin?

False publication and slander is punishable by law.

Postmaster General Burleson would have cleared his skirts of the suspicion of bureaucratic autocracy had he prosecuted these men in the courts and proved their charges false and malicious.

It is right that Government employees should be forbidden to strike. But this prohibition carries with it a solemn duty on the part of the Government not to obstruct earnest and fair efforts of employees to educate the public, their employer, to their need for fair pay and fair treatment.

When the postal employees ask a national tribunal to adjudicate such controversies with Washington officials they are asking no more than their rights. In simple justice, their demands should be granted.

### THE LARGER KIND.

IN AN address to the Canadian Bar Association at Ottawa this week, William Howard Taft, eminent Republican and former President of the United States, said:

"I do not think that those people who contend against the power of the United States to make contracts and enter into obligations with other nations fully realize how completely such a construction of the Constitution would relegate our great Nation and Government to the limbo of infants and irresponsible persons who may not undertake obligations that are binding upon them."

Here again Mr. Taft is voicing the larger Americanism.

He is voicing an Americanism which does not fear to play an active, participating role in the greatest international movement civilized humanity has ever started for the safeguarding of peace.

He is voicing an Americanism that shakes itself free from the clutches of scheming partisanship and considers the League of Nations solely in the light of what it will do toward furthering an aim in which right-thinking men of all parties have been in accord.

There are plenty of people, Democrats and Republicans, in the United States who have not forgotten, and who will never forget, that William Howard Taft, Republican, was a big enough American to stand on the same platform with President Wilson in this city eighteen months ago and earnestly urge other Americans to back the League of Nations as something far transcending party politics.

Speaking at Albany three months later, Mr. Taft said again:

"This is no partisan question. We should be for or against the League of Nations without respect to whether we are Democrats or Republicans. Personal and partisan considerations of this kind are reasons which should have no influence with us in determining an issue so fateful in the world's history and so likely to affect the future welfare of the people of the United States and all mankind."

It was a profound misfortune for the country that Mr. Taft's influence in his party could not prevail against the forces by which that party is now controlled.

It was a profound misfortune for the country that Republicans like Mr. Taft could not have lifted the League of Nations issue and established it once and for all on a plane out of reach of partisan plot and conspiracy.

Even in the midst of this Presidential campaign the eyes of the people of the United States ought to be turning toward the League of Nations as the brightest hope of mankind emerging from darkness and stress.

Not fully realized, not perfect—but nevertheless a practicable working step, the longest yet, upon which ALL Americans should be concentrating their best constructive thought and energy to make it succeed.

The wisest, sanest thing American men and women of all parties can do at the present moment is to find time to turn their gaze outward.

Look at the world.

See what is happening, there and reflect how foolish are those who would have us think that in this twentieth century the United States can completely separate its destiny from the destinies of other peoples.

See what is solidly good and promising in this League of Nations as against flaws a thousand times magnified by spite and prejudice.

Above all, don't relegate the United States, as Mr. Taft puts it, "to the limbo of infants and irresponsible persons."

This Nation is great and strong enough to trust itself with other nations in any high adventure that seeks to put the devil of war in heavier chains.

The larger Americanism does not tremble or turn pale at the thought of such partnership.

### G. O. P. MAXIMS TO DATE.

"You cannot conduct a political campaign on a specific foreign policy."—Senator Knox.

## Sic 'Em!

Copyright, 1920, by The Press Publishing Co. (The New York Evening World.)

By J. H. Cassel



### FROM EVENING WORLD READERS

What kind of letter do you find most readable? Isn't it the one that gives you the worth of a thousand words in a couple of hundred? There is fine mental exercise and a lot of satisfaction in trying to say much in a few words. Take time to be brief.

Jay Walking.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I have noticed in your paper recently, particularly on the editorial page, some very good, and I think some very proper, editorials on the traffic condition in New York. At least, I think they are very proper as far as they go, but they do not go far enough.

These editorials refer particularly to the fatalities and the accidents that occur in the streets between automobiles and pedestrians, and I mean that they do not go far enough because you only treat with one side of the question. Every question, of course, has two sides, and if one wants to make a success of the difficulty that exists the only successful way to do so is to consider both the factors.

While it is perfectly proper, of course, that the careless and reckless automobile driver should be punished and eliminated as far as possible, yet the result that is desired will never be obtained unless the careless and reckless pedestrian is also taught to do his share and made to understand that he has a responsibility to perform as one of the factors, just the same as the automobile driver.

Police records show that 30 per cent. of the accidents are the fault of pedestrians and consequently no matter how culpable the automobile driver may be it will not be possible to materially reduce these accidents even if every reckless and careless automobile driver were eliminated, which, of course, is an absolute impossibility, although a decided improvement might be effected in that direction.

I would suggest, therefore, that your paper pay the attention to the pedestrian's side of this question that it also deserves. It is probable that your editorials will not be as popular, yet they will certainly be more effective.

The Police Department is now recognizing that the pedestrian has got to be protected against himself by the control that they are putting on pedestrian traffic at 42d and 34th Streets and Fifth Avenue to keep pedestrians from running heedlessly into the automobiles when the traffic officer gives the signal. This is a very encouraging sign of the times and will undoubtedly be followed by a larger effort in this direction because it is absolutely necessary.

I also hear some very good news from Buffalo. It is the first big city that I have heard of that is taking the proper strenuous action against the careless pedestrian. In Buffalo at the present time there is a city ordinance to the effect that pedestrians must not cross the streets in the middle of the block, and they are arresting and punishing them for doing so, just the same as they arrest and punish law-breaking automobile drivers. They carried on an educational campaign of warning for a few

weeks, and they followed it up by making the arrests, and from what I hear it is having a very beneficial effect.

They are doing even more than that. They call these careless pedestrians "Jays," and the street cars are carrying advertising cards appealing to the pedestrians not to be "Jays." I understand the sign reads "Don't be a Jay when you are crossing the street," or words to that effect.

I have driven an automobile around the streets of New York myself for over twenty years. I also walk a great deal around town and I therefore have a pretty good idea of both the factors in this very troublesome question.

Please give this matter careful thought, and write some editorials about careless pedestrians and see how they look to you when they get in print.

You will never make the proper progress by your present course of action; as a matter of fact it reminds me very much of a man trying to lift himself by his boot-strap.

SIDNEY B. ROWMAN.  
1672 Broadway, Aug. 30, 1920.

Editor's Note: A recent editorial, "A Jay Walking Town," made precisely the point which Mr. Rowman emphasizes. The Evening World has repeatedly pointed out the double fault of responsibility in most motor accidents.

Why Worry?

To the Editor of The Evening World:

To settle a dispute with you kindly decide the following question relating to table etiquette?

A contends that any one possessing a left hand should not use the fork in his right hand to convey food to the mouth, while B insists that the reverse should be the case. Who wins?

WATERS.  
New York, Sept. 1, 1920.

No Jobs for Him.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

It has been of considerable interest to me to note the contents of your various correspondents with respect to persons who are out of employment. Very recently I read the remarks attributed to a learned judge, to the effect that no one need remain out of employment through choice, but will find positions and jobs hanging all around him waiting to be plucked.

It surely must have occurred to such persons that there is a type of man who is not skilled in any of the trades, who is not of the type which does laboring work, who is refined, educated, bright, experienced and has accomplished noteworthy things; men who could be placed into most any executive or semi-executive position with the utmost assurance that they would make good. I refer to men who have met with considerable success and find themselves suddenly suffering reverses.

A man of this type cannot, of course, expect to obtain employment at any of the various trades. He cannot do laboring work; mainly because he is obviously not of the laboring type; his prospective employer will try to advise him on the way he should conduct his future. Place him in a minor position, and he will be tortured by the fact that he is obtaining a meagre salary which does not nearly make ends meet at home. Besides, he is generally working alongside of dumb-bells, foreigners, illiterates and semi-educated boobies whose main ambition seems to be watching the clock, discussing where they will go that evening and wishing Saturday were to-morrow.

This is a fine place to put a man who has more knowledge and experience than the whole batch of such fellow employees. At that, it is mighty hard to get into a minor position; so much "experience" seems to be required in the particular line of business under discussion.

He can obtain lots of positions as salesman (on commission). No matter how high a type of salesman he may be, he is expected to work hard to further his employer's interests,

## UNCOMMON SENSE

By John Blake

(Copyright, 1920, by John Blake.)

BETTER TOO MUCH CONFIDENCE THAN NONE.

Overconfidence results in many and costly mistakes. But we learn by mistakes.

The overconfident youth is often a pest. But better be a pest than a failure.

The only way to find out whether you can handle a job or not is to try it.

If you find that you can't handle it, after trying it as many times as you are permitted to, you can always tackle some other kind of a job.

Often overconfidence will be mistaken for vanity. Often it will bring painful ridicule on you.

But if you are of the sort which can be turned from your purpose by ridicule there will be no chance of your making progress anyway, so don't worry.

Overconfidence is dangerous only when it is based on nothing. But even then the man who believes in himself will get further than a timid man who is afraid to attempt any task that may be offered him.

The best confidence, of course, is confidence that is born of ability. But ability must be acquired slowly and painfully.

If you feel that you can do a big job after you have learned, you are far more likely to learn how than if you feel that you could never do it, no matter how hard you tried.

Believe in your future ability, if you don't believe in your present ability. Don't be afraid of overconfidence. The chances are that you won't have it, for few intelligent people have.

But even if you are more confident than is justified by your present performance, you can make yourself live up to your confidence by and by if you are in earnest about your ambition.

And remember always that in business as in life, a faint heart never won any prizes.

receiving absolutely no pay meanwhile until he has developed trade. His employer cheerfully will throw to the winds many of the prospects, and in many cases expects the man to wait thirty days or more for the money he has actually earned.

With the utmost respect to the opinion of Magistrate Norris and of your correspondents, I am coming to the conclusion that there is no one in this God-forsaken town who wants to take a chance on a man by the usual means to be a good one to employ. I know, because I am of this type, and therefore must remain ANONYMOUS.

New York, Aug. 25, 1920.

And Worse to Come.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I have been informed by the New York Telephone Company that I could have a telephone installed by signing a contract for \$40 a year and up. There seems to be a joker here. How about the 5 per cent. discount ordered by the Public Service Commission?

VICTIM.  
New York, Sept. 1, 1920.

## Ten-Minute Studies of New York City Government.

By Willis Brooks Hawkins.

This is the twenty-seventh article of a series defining the duties of the administration and legislative officers and boards of the New York City Government.

### Taxation.

Board of Assessors.

The chief duty of the Board of Assessors is the levying of assessments to defray the original cost of local improvements, such as grading, curbing and paving of streets, the laying of sidewalks and of sewers. The entire cost of preliminary street pavements is assessed against the property benefited. If a permanent pavement is subsequently laid over the same area only the difference between the cost of the preliminary and the permanent pavements is assessed against the property benefited. When the cost of a permanent pavement has once been assessed repayments are generally paid for by the city, excepting when the new pavement is laid in accordance with a petition of a majority of the interested abutters, in which case it is assessed against the abutting property.

The cost of a lateral sewer is assessed against the property drained by it, while the cost of an intercepting sewer is assessed against the property directly drained by it only, the amount of the cost of a lateral sewer, the excess, being distributed over the territory drained by the local sewers flowing into it. The cost of an intercepting sewer is assessed against the entire territory which it drains. The assessments for regulating, grading and paving streets up to sixty feet in width are usually levied against the property in front of which the improvement is made, but if the street is of unusual width, is a main artery of travel and is of extensive construction the assessment is extended to the area locally benefited. When an assessment for benefit exceeds 2 per cent. of the value of the property, it may be paid in ten installments with interest at 5 per cent. Under no conditions may an assessment exceed 50 per cent. of the value of the property against which it is levied.

Notices of pending assessments are published in the City Record and in the corporation newspapers and the lists are open for thirty days thereafter, when a hearing is given before the Board of Assessors. If the board is unable to adjust its differences with an abutter, the matter is referred to the Board of Revision of Assessments, consisting of the Comptroller, the Corporation Counsel and the President of the Department of Taxes and Assessments.

If the grade of a street is changed, a property owner may file a claim for damages, which, if allowed, are added to the cost of the work and assessed against the property benefited.

The Board of Assessors consists of three members appointed by the Mayor. The present incumbents are William C. Ormond, President; Maurice Simmons and Andrew T. Sullivan. The salary of the President is \$5,000 a year, that of the other members, \$5,000.

There is a movement on foot for the encouragement of movies in the schools and to be made a part of the curriculum of school work. Already such visual instruction has been established in Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles and Newark.

As an aid to class room work this method of teaching has unlimited possibilities. The invention which regards the motion picture as a means of instruction in teaching children exactly how various things move.

For athletics and surgery this would be most useful. Colored photography for educational purposes is also most interesting as well as the animated drawings, which would be of great value in the teaching of many branches of science, such as biology, chemistry and physics.

In a word, the opportunities are many, especially since children grasp things perhaps more readily by actually visualizing them.

In New Orleans, where there were no funds for the purpose, the children raised the cost of screen work by salvaging newspapers. However, it is an education feature that ought to be encouraged.

### AS ONE WOMAN SEES IT

By Sophie Irene Loeb

(Copyright, 1920, by The Press Publishing Co. (The New York Evening World.)

HERE is a movement on foot for the encouragement of movies in the schools and to be made a part of the curriculum of school work. Already such visual instruction has been established in Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles and Newark.

As an aid to class room work this method of teaching has unlimited possibilities. The invention which regards the motion picture as a means of instruction in teaching children exactly how various things move.

For athletics and surgery this would be most useful. Colored photography for educational purposes is also most interesting as well as the animated drawings, which would be of great value in the teaching of many branches of science, such as biology, chemistry and physics.

In a word, the opportunities are many, especially since children grasp things perhaps more readily by actually visualizing them.

In New Orleans, where there were no funds for the purpose, the children raised the cost of screen work by salvaging newspapers. However, it is an education feature that ought to be encouraged.

### "That's a Fact"

By Albert P. Southwick

(Copyright, 1920, by The Press Publishing Co. (The New York Evening World.)

Richmond Hill was really a hill, the southwestern outcrop of the low range called the Zandberg (that is, "sandhill"), which swung in a long curve from the present Clinton Place and Broadway to where Varick and Van Dam Streets are now.

The boys of a century and more ago had their winter sports without trouble. They could put on their skates at the Stone Bridge, intersection of the present Canal Street and Broadway, and glide away over the flooded meadows around the base of Richmond Hill, and up the Minna Creek across the marsh that has since been transformed into Washington Square, and then to the present Fifth Avenue and 14th Street.

The Minetta (also spelled Manetta) water expanded into a large point at the Minna Creek, and from the crest of this eminence was an enticing prospect; on the south, the woods and dells, and winding road from the lands of Liekeard through the valley where was Borrowman's tavern; and on the north and west the plains of Greenwich Village made a rich prospect to gaze on.

"Lepner's Meadows" was the ignorant pronunciation of Liekeard's grassy fields.